

# SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AB 354

Immunization Coalition of  
Los Angeles County  
April 17, 2012

# LOS ANGELES COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION (LACOE)

- ▶ Public agency, headquarters in Downey
- ▶ Serves as intermediate organization between local public school districts and the California Department of Education
- ▶ Nation's largest regional education agency
- ▶ Provide programs/services
- ▶ Provide direct instruction

# MYTH VS. FACT

- ▶ Myth – Los Angeles County is one large district = LA Unified
- ▶ Fact – LAUSD serves approx 40% of LA County students
- ▶ Fact – The other 60% of students are served by 79 other school districts

# SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN LA COUNTY

- ▶ Number of Cities – 88
- ▶ Number of School Districts – 80
  - ▶ 28 Elementary
  - ▶ 5 High School
  - ▶ 47 Unified
- ▶ Smallest District/Enrollment – Gorman SD, 96 students
- ▶ Largest District/Enrollment – Los Angeles USD, 667,251 students



## Los Angeles County Public School Districts



# STUDENTS IN LA COUNTY

- ▶ Number of Public Schools – 2,110
- ▶ Number of K-12 Students – 1,589,390
- ▶ Students Receiving Free/Reduced Price Meals – 65%
- ▶ English Learners – 25%
- ▶ Number of Different Languages Spoken by Students – 92
- ▶ Ethnicity
  - ▶ Hispanic – 63.7%
  - ▶ White – 14.8%
  - ▶ African American – 8.8%
  - ▶ Asian – 7.7%

# SCHOOL DISTRICT

- ▶ Each district has its own
  - ▶ Board of Education
  - ▶ Superintendent

# DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES

- ▶ Each district is mandated to provide Health Services, which includes
  - ▶ Review of immunizations
  - ▶ Health screenings – vision, hearing
  - ▶ Medication administration
  - ▶ Care for students with illness and injury
  - ▶ Specialized physical healthcare services
- ▶ Mandates under supervision of a Credentialed School Nurse
- ▶ No State mandate for Credentialed School Nurse



# AB 354 - PERTUSSIS

How did schools manage student compliance?

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Will try,  
but no exclusion

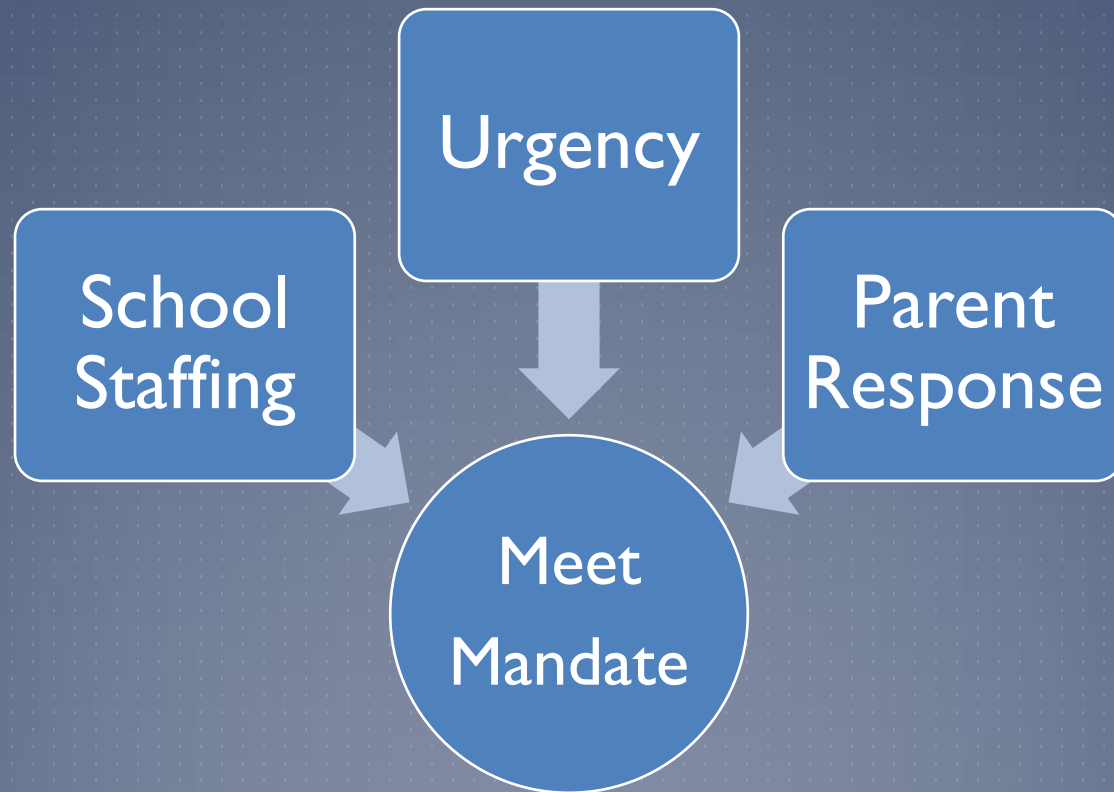
Continuum

Will do whatever it takes  
to meet the mandate

- ▶ Early and repeated notification to parents/students
  - ▶ Flyers, messages w/ report cards, articles
  - ▶ Website
  - ▶ Parent phone calls – ConnectEd

# TOP PROBLEMS / BARRIERS

- ▶ No financial incentive
  - ▶ Huge loss of ADA for excluding students
  - ▶ No financial incentive/penalty
- ▶ Overwhelming numbers of students - >700,000 students
- ▶ Lack of district staffing
- ▶ Not all districts had immunizations entered in a district-wide database
- ▶ Lack of local resources – Antelope Valley
- ▶ Lack of assistance from Public Health compared to other counties
- ▶ Report – Did not ask for # of students who did not meet mandate



# PARENT RESPONSE

- ▶ Quickly responded
- ▶ Parents did not know their child already had vaccine
- ▶ No response from parents

# WHAT WORKED

- ▶ Kaiser – sent letters to their customers
- ▶ Districts who were already VFC immunization providers – held clinics on school sites
- ▶ Collaboration with local clinics to hold immunization clinics on school campus
  - ▶ Agency provided everything – staff & supplies
  - ▶ Agency provided supplies (& sometimes clerical staff), district provided school nurses to administer vaccine
- ▶ CAIR - limited

# WILL TRY

- ▶ Early & frequent notification
- ▶ Trained clerical staff to assist with records
- ▶ Unable to have immunization clinics on site
- ▶ Limited school nurse time
- ▶ Took option for 30-day grace period
- ▶ Did not exclude students

# WHATEVER IT TAKES

- ▶ Strong administrative support
- ▶ Early & frequent notification – tied to school events, registration
- ▶ Student incentives – pizza parties, coupons, special privileges
- ▶ Hired hourly staffing for summer
- ▶ A handful of districts chose not to use grace period
- ▶ With parent permission, drove students to local clinic
- ▶ Paid for student to receive vaccine at local pharmacy
- ▶ Excluded students
- ▶ Many unpaid hours of nursing and staff time

# FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

- ▶ Comprehensive State immunization database
- ▶ Simplify process for district to become a VFC provider on a limited basis
- ▶ Select one grade to implement a mandate
- ▶ Tie mandate to a financial incentive / penalty



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